

PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST



SEPTEMBER 2023

QUALIFICATIONS WALES

PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST AND FORWARD LOOK

Qualifications Wales and Welsh Ministers have prepared the Priority Qualifications List in exercise of their powers under section 13 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 (duty to prepare list of priority qualifications).

Qualifications Wales may approve qualifications that have been designed to meet the needs of learners in Wales. The Priority Qualifications List is a list of the qualifications for which:

- Qualifications Wales has published approval criteria,
- qualifications are under consideration of restriction and in respect of which it must, in accordance with section 18 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015, consider any applications for approval from appropriately recognised awarding bodies.

Qualifications on this list will only be approved if they meet the published approval criteria. Approved status is not an indicator of the relative importance of a qualification.

The Forward Look is also reviewed regularly by Qualifications Wales to ensure it continues to give awarding bodies notice of possible future priorities. While the Forward Look does not constitute a part of the List, and therefore is not jointly prepared, it does enable the early development of approval criteria for these qualifications and gives awarding bodies notice of likely future priorities.

Qualifications Wales will consider for approval qualifications that are not on the Priority Qualifications List if there are published approval criteria. However, the approval of qualifications that are on the Priority Qualifications List will be of higher priority.

Qualifications Wales has published the [Priority Qualifications List and Restricted Qualifications Policy](#), which provides more detail of how the Priority Qualifications List is managed.

Restricted priority qualifications

Qualifications Wales may apply a restriction to limit the number of forms of a qualification that may be approved at any time. This section contains two parts. Part 1 relates to those qualifications where Qualifications Wales has an intention to restrict. Representations in response to the notification to restrict will be considered before any determination to restrict is published. Determinations to restrict are indicated in Part 2.

Part 1 - Intentions to restrict

Part 2 - Determinations to restrict

Qualifications Wales has restricted the following descriptions of qualifications to **one form each**:

Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Level 3)

Building Services and Construction

Core in Construction and the Built Environment (Level 2)

Foundation in Construction and the Built Environment (Level 2)

Progression in Building Services Engineering (Level 2)

Progression in Construction (Level 2)

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – heating and ventilating installer

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – heating and ventilating craftsperson

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – plumbing and heating

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – electrotechnical installation

Construction (Level 3) – dry lining

Construction (Level 3) – roof slating and tiling

Construction (Level 3) – civil operations – groundworks

Construction (Level 3) – timber frame erection

Construction (Level 3) – bricklaying

Construction (Level 3) – architectural joinery

Construction (Level 3) – site carpentry

Construction (Level 3) – painting and decorating

Construction (Level 3) – solid plastering

Construction (Level 3) – wall and floor tiling

Construction (Level 3) – plant operations

Construction (Level 3) – further plant operations

Health and Social Care, and Childcare

GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare (Single Award)

GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare (Double Award)

Level 2 Health and Social Care: Core
Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Core
Level 2 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts
Level 2 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)
Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory
Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice
GCE A level and AS in Health and Social Care, and Childcare
Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts
Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory
Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)
Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Children and Young People)
Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice
Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care
Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management of Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development
Level 5 Leadership and Management of Health and Social Care: Practice
Level 5 Leadership and Management of Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice
Level 4 Health and Social Care: Professional Practice
Level 4 Social Service Practitioner
Level 4 Advocacy
Level 4 Adult Placement/Shared Lives
Level 4 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Professional Practice

Unrestricted priority qualifications with published Approval Criteria

Made for Wales GCSEs

Art and Design
British Sign Language
Built Environment
Business
Computer Science
Core Cymraeg
Cymraeg Language and Literature (Single Award)
Cymraeg Language and Literature (Double Award)
Dance
Design and Technology
Digital Media and Film
Digital Technology
Drama
Engineering
English Language and Literature (Single Award)
English Language and Literature (Double Award)
Food and Nutrition
French
Geography
German
Health and Social Care, and Childcare (Single Award)
History
Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)
Music
Physical Education and Health
Religious Studies
The Sciences (Single Award)
The Sciences (Double Award)
Social Studies
Spanish

Other qualifications for 14-16-year-olds in Wales

Level 2 Additional Core Cymraeg
Level 2 Additional Mathematics

GCSE qualifications (First teaching of the qualification was during or after the academic year 2015/16)

English

AS and A levels

English
Welsh
English Literature
Welsh Literature
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Welsh (Second Language)
Law
Media Studies
Drama
Music
Physical Education
Geography
French
German
Spanish
Religious Studies
Design and Technology
Government and Politics
Built Environment
Digital Technology

Welsh
English Literature
Welsh Literature
Mathematics
Mathematics Numeracy
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Science (Double Award)
Applied Science (Single Award)
Applied Science (Double Award)
Geography
French
German
Spanish
Music
Science suite
Drama
Physical Education
History
Food and Nutrition
Religious Studies
Art and Design
Business
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Media Studies
Welsh (Second Language)
Built Environment
Digital Technology

Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications

Level 1/2 Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate

Level 3 Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

Essential Skills Wales qualifications

Suite of Essential Skills Wales qualifications (Entry Level to Level 3)

The qualifications listed on the Priority Qualifications List were jointly agreed by Qualifications Wales and the Minister for Education and Welsh Language. This list was published on **7 September 2023**.

FORWARD LOOK

The Forward Look describes the qualifications that Qualifications Wales is considering for inclusion on the Priority Qualifications List in the future. The Forward Look enables Qualifications Wales to give awarding bodies notice of future priorities and to enable the development of appropriate approval criteria by Qualifications Wales.

The inclusion of qualifications or descriptions of qualifications in the Forward Look is not a guarantee that they will be included in a future Priority Qualifications List. Similarly, a qualification or description of qualification may be included in a future Priority Qualifications List without first appearing on the Forward Look.

The regulation of vocational qualifications is an important element of Qualifications Wales' work. In order to make the regulation of vocational qualifications more manageable and effective, we are adopting a sectoral approach to the review of qualifications. The current sectors being reviewed are:

- Travel, Tourism, Leisure, Hospitality and Catering; and
- Sports and Public Services.

One of the outcomes of these reviews may be the inclusion of qualifications for these sectors on the Priority Qualifications List in the future.

Qualifications Wales is also developing proposals for 14-16 qualifications to sit alongside GCSEs, to create an inclusive menu of bilingual qualifications for schools and learners to choose from. This work is likely to lead to some reviewing and reforming of qualifications for 16-year-olds.